

Home Going Service
for
Superintendent Jesse Emory Copeland



Born
September 27, 1902

Home Going
December 18, 2004

December 29, 2004. ♦ 11:00 PM

St. Paul Baptist Church
3996-14th Avenue
Sacramento, CA

Jesse Emory Copeland, Pastor and Founder

September 27, 1902 - December 18, 2004

Supt. Jesse E. Copeland, the Founder and Pastor of the Progressive Church of God in Christ, was born in Troupe, Texas on September 27, 1902, to Sally and Sam Copeland. He was the second youngest of 16 children.

After the family moved to Dallas, Texas he received the Lord as his personal Savior in 1914, where he lived for approximately 20 years. He married Georgia Daniels in 1926. To this union was born one daughter: Mary Alice Copeland (now Lewis). He was ordained for the ministry of God's Word on July 20, 1933.

In 1944, Pastor Copeland moved to Los Angeles, California, and served as a local minister at Emmanuel Church of God in Christ, under the pastorate of Bishop Samuel Crouch. While in Los Angeles, he met and married Annie May Roberson. In 1949, Pastor Copeland and his bride came to Sacramento, and using his own funds, he purchased the property at 1969 Burnett Way from the New Hope Baptist Church. He founded the Progressive Church of God in Christ with the membership consisting of the families of Mother Steele, Mother Cooper, and Mother Cousins. He subsequently deeded the property to the church. The first service was held in the winter of that same year (1949). The first instrument in the church was a donated piano. The first deacon was Brother Burdicks; first church mother was Mother Cooper; first choir director was Brother Sammy Irving; first minister was Minister Cousins and the first musician was Brother Gill. God has been faithful to multiply and increase since those days. The weekly and Sunday Services were held in what is known today as the kitchen and dining area.

In 1950, Hosea Houston was hired to build the portion of the church in which services were held until the new edifice at 2251 Meadowview was completed. Pastor Joe Morrison, from the Sacramento Revival Center, was in attendance at the church's opening service. By this time, the membership had increased to twenty. With the death of Pastor Copeland's wife, Mother Annie May Copeland, in 1960, the church did not cease to increase in congregational growth.

Pastor Copeland received a Honorary Degree of Doctor of Divinity from the Saint Justine's Theological Seminary. Pastor Copeland was honored on January 24, 1959, with the position of Superintendent of the Sacramento District. He continued to maintain that position until his death. Pastor Copeland was the 1st Administrative Assistant to Bishop W.W. Hamilton, Jurisdiction Prelate of California Northwest, which consists of more than 120 churches, spanning from Redding to the beautiful breathtaking peninsula of Monterey, and as far south as Bakersfield.

In 1990, the J E. Copeland Scholarship Fund was founded and so named in his honor. Each year, scholarships are given to college bound young people. On February 15, 1991, Sacramento Mayor Ann Rudin honored our Pastor Copeland with a "Proclamation of Recognition" for community services. On June 10, 1991, Pastor Copeland was honored with the "Distinguished District Award of California Northwest Jurisdiction. On December 15, 1992, Pastor Copeland was honored with a "Resolution of Recognition from the Senate Rules Committee of California. On June 26, 1999, Pastor Copeland was honored with the "California Northwest Outstanding Pastor of the Year Award". Pastor Copeland has received honors and recognition both locally and nationally that are too numerous to list.

In 1983, Pastor Copeland met and married Ruth Thompson. Obeying the voice of the Lord, Pastor Copeland stopped accepting the tithes and began putting them back into the church. Rapidly, the church began to grow, which made it necessary to get a larger edifice. With the help of Brother John Tatum the property at 2251 Meadowview Road was located. Within a year of the purchase, the property was paid off. After selecting a contractor, the building of the new church began.

In 1992, the new edifice at 2251 Meadowview was completed. The congregation continued to grow by leaps and bounds under the leadership of "Our good Shepherd". In 1998 he was honored in the Sacramento Bee, Gospel Journal, and the Sacramento Observer. In 1999 the Progressive Church of God in Christ celebrated its 50th anniversary. Pastor Copeland held the distinction of being the oldest pastor in the Sacramento area.

In 2002 Pastor Copeland celebrated his 100th birthday, surrounded by his family and congregation as well as many friends.

Our beloved Pastor was called home to be with the Lord after a lifetime of dedication and service the morning of December 18, 2004. Left to mourn Dad is his daughter - Mary A. Lewis, 2 grandchildren - Karen Palmer, Barbara Lewis; 4 great-grandchildren, 16 great-great-grandchildren, the Progressive family, and a host of friends.

Home Going Order of Service Superintendent Jesse Emory Copeland Administrative Assistant, Gerald Harris, MC

PROCESSIONAL

(The Bishop, & Adm. Asst, Executive Board, Superintends, Pastors, Ministers, Pallbearers, & Family)

MUSIC SELECTION..... Area Choir

INVOCATION..... Dr. J. W. Keaton

THE WRITTEN WORD

OLD TESTAMENT..... PSALMS 90:1-4 Dr. S. E. Gaskins

NEW TESTAMENT JOHN 11 :20-25 Supt. L.A. Larkins

MUSIC SELECTION..... Area Choir

SPECIAL REMARKS

LOCAL Mother Delores Lewis, (Church Mother)

DISTRICT..... Elder B. L. Toliver, (Assistant Pastor)

JURISDICTION..... Dr. L. W. Keaton, (Executive Board Member)

SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE..... Deacon Robert Murray (Head Deacon)

Special Remarks

Mrs. Mary Lewis, Dad's Daughter

MISSIONARY B. ANDERSON, Dist.. Missionary

MOTHER MARY WELCH, Jurisdictional Supervisor of Women

MUSICAL SELECTION..... Area

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF CONDOLENCES..... Missionary I. Taylor

MUSICAL SELECTION..... Area

RESOLUTIONS AND TRIBUTES

LOCAL Progressive Representative

DISTRICT..... District Representative

JURISDICTION..... Dr. E. J. O'Neal, The Executive Secretary

READING OF OBITUARY (Read Silently)

THE SERMONIC RENDITION..... Mother Ruth Langston

EULOGY..... SUPERINTENDENT J. A. JENNINGS

Administrative Assistant, California Northwest

REVIEW AND RECESSION

(The Service continues at Odd Fellows Lawn)

Active Pallbearers

*Elder Clarence Perry
Elder Juan McKnight
Elder Charles Smith*

*Elder Reginald Allen
Elder Don Carter
Elder Donald White*

Honorary Pallbearers

Superintendents of California Northwest

Interment

*Odd Fellows Lawn
2720 Riverside Blvd.
Sacramento, CA 95818*

Acknowledgments

The Copeland and Lewis families wish to express their gratitude for the many kindness shown. Thanks for the many visits, phone calls, cards, flowers, telegrams, prayers and other expressions of love shown during this time. God bless you is our prayer.

Arrangements

*Morgan Jones Funeral Home
4200 Broadway
Sacramento, California
916.452.4444*